

September 6, 1999

Commissioner Jane Henney  
FDA  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

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Dear Commissioner Henney:

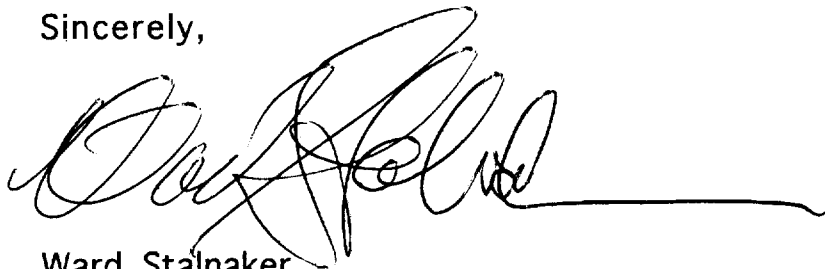
I urge you to ban use of human antibiotics in animal feed. There is sufficient evidence to conclude that feeding animals human antibiotics has harmful, potentially disastrous effects.

Foremost is the issue of breeding antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria. The mechanism, simplified, is clear: when an antibiotic is used on animals, traces of that antibiotic which reach humans through meat or milk are less than a therapeutic dose. Hence they don't kill all of a given kind of bacteria. They kill only the weaker ones. The stronger ones survive. Over time one develops strains of bacteria which are strong enough to resist the antibiotic even when its given in a therapeutic dose. Thus a major tool of modern scientific medicine is compromised.

The issue of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria is surely serious enough that one would have to conclude that it's short-sighted, to say the least, to allow human antibiotics to be used in animal feed. The WHO, CDC and APHA have made clear their stands against use of human antibiotics in animal feed. Denmark, Sweden and the European Union have taken action. Now its our turn.

I urge you to ban human antibiotics in animal feed.

Sincerely,



Ward Stalnaker  
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